

BAGGAGE

“Anger”

¹⁹ It is **harder to win back the friendship** of an offended brother **than to capture a fortified city**. His **anger** shuts you out like iron bars. **Proverbs 18:19 (TLB)**

WEBSTER'S “close cousins”:

FORGIVENESS = To **renounce anger** or resentment against, To **absolve from payment** of.

GRACE = The freely given, **undeserving favor** and love of God.

ANGER CREATES A DEBT/DEBTOR RELATIONSHIP

²³ “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who **owed him millions of dollars**. ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷ **Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.** **Matthew 18:23-27 (NLT)**

FORGIVENESS IS A DECISION TO CANCEL A DEBT

²⁸ “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a **few thousand dollars**. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹ “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor **wouldn't wait**. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. **Matthew 18:28-30 (NLT)**

³¹ “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he

had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.' ³³ ***Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Matthew 18:31-33 (NLT)***

WE FORGIVE OTHERS BECAUSE HE FIRST FORGAVE US

"When you forgive someone you set a prisoner free...only to discover that you're the prisoner."

– Lewis Smedes

³¹ ***Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*** ³² ***Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)***

Heavenly Father, _____ has taken _____ from me. I have held on to this debt long enough. I choose to cancel this debt. _____ doesn't owe me anymore. Just as you forgave me, I forgive _____.

²⁸ ***Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28 (NLT)***